1	3
15. Tirupathi (Chittoor)	5874
16. Ongole (Prakasam)	2457
17. Vijayawada	16542
18. Warangal	3517
19. Nalgonda	3517
20. Adilabad	1679
21. Vishakapatnam	14380
22. Vizianagaram	1079
23. Hyderabad (Urban)	93109
Total	198514

Streamlining the Telecommunication Network in Rural areas

416. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that telephone exchanges, PCOs and private telephones are generally defunct and dead in large areas of rural India, and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to streamline the telecommunication network in the rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Telephone exchanges PCOs etc. in rural India are generally not defunct, but there are some specific maintenence problems in many areas of rural India. The Government is aware of it and suitable steps are taken to short-out these problems.

(b) Steps taken to streamline the telecommunication network are given as below:

1. Replacement of manual and electromechanical exchanges by electronic exchanges.

2. Installing new electronic exchanges on large scale.

3. Providing adequate capacity power plant and stand by power supply. Use of nonconventional power energy like solar energy etc. wherever feasible in cases where normal electric supply is not satisfactory.

4. Providing stable media for the circuits linking the rural exchange to the parent exchange.

5. Providing sufficient circuits to provide STD and group dialling facilities.

6. Provision of upgraded out-door plant for sub-lines and providing long distance public telephones and long distance connections on radio systems like MARR.

Expansion Plans to provide Telephones on Demand

417. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering an expansion plan as a result